
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 www.senate.gov/~gregg/



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Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

SENATOR GREGG VOTES FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATION'S CHANGES TO AIR QUALITY RULES

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today voted in favor of an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill that would have delayed the implementation of the Administration's New Source Review Air Quality rules. If approved, the delay would have been used to study the environmental impact of the policy and study its affect air-related diseases. The amendment was defeated 46-50; however, Senator Gregg continues to work on a measure with several other Senate colleagues that will require the reduction of overall emissions for the four sources of pollution -- sulphur, nitrogen, mercury, and carbon dioxide. Senator Gregg voted against an earlier amendment, which passed, which will allow the rules to be implemented on schedule.

Senator Gregg stated, "I continue to be concerned with the Administration's recently proposed New Source Review rules which grant increased flexibility for utilities, manufacturers, and others contributing to air pollution without significant efforts to reduce emissions and improve air quality. Today, the Senate voted on two important amendments relating to air pollution. The first amendment would have allowed the Administration's new rules to go forward, and would have called for a National Academy of Sciences study on the impact of the rules at some future date. I voted against this amendment, and was disappointed that it passed because it will do nothing to improve the quality of New Hampshire's air. The second amendment would have suspended the Administration's New Source Review rules until September 15, 2003, and called for a National Academy of Sciences study on the impact of these rules on air quality and human health by September 1, 2003. While I understand that there may be a need for New Source Review reform, we must make certain any reforms will have a positive impact on air quality.

"Clean air is vital to the health and well-being of New Hampshire. While I am actively engaged in discussions to reduce emissions, I am also seeking a better understanding of the causes and consequences of air pollution on New England's environment. That is why I have included almost \$20 million in research programs on air quality in the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus appropriations bill currently being considered by the full Senate."

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Specifically, Senator Gregg, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of Commerce, is working to secure \$3 million to develop a National Air Quality forecasting program to be piloted first in New England. This program, due to become operational within the next two years, will be the first of its kind to provide highly specific and accurate forecasts on the probable concentrations and kinds of pollutants to be expected within any community. In addition, I am seeking \$5 million for UNH's AIRMAP investigation and \$1.75 million for a NOAA study, both of which will look into the sources of New Hampshire's air pollution and how it interacts with the local environment.

“Today, 46 U.S. Senators - both Democrats and Republicans, including both Senators Gregg and Sununu put the President on notice that he cannot unilaterally unravel clean air laws,” said Jan Pendlebury, Director of the State office of the National Environmental Trust. “For the past 18 months, EPA has rebuffed formal requests from Congress and State officials for a study of the health impacts of the new rules. That’s why even the weaker amendment passed today required a National Academy of Sciences study to determine whether these changes hurt public health.”

“Today, both New Hampshire Senators stepped up for Granite Staters who care about clean air, and bravely ‘crossed party lines’ and voted to stop dangerous new changes to the Clean Air Act,” Pendlebury said, “Both Gregg and Sununu should be commended for their votes to hold some of the nation’s biggest polluters accountable.”

The attached sheet describes each of these programs in detail.

New Hampshire Oceanic and Atmospheric Projects

FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)

Chairman, Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State Subcommittee

\$5 million – Atmospheric Investigations, Regional Monitoring, Analysis, and Prediction Program

AIRMAP is a cooperative institute between the UNH and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designed to provide a detailed understanding of various sources of pollution by studying the dynamics of New England's atmosphere, air quality and weather. The program combines NOAA's atmospheric research with UNH-led systematic monitoring of the region's atmospheric chemistry in order to develop the ability to predict air quality changes as an addition to daily weather forecasts. Increased funds will enable UNH to better partner with NOAA and others on a variety of new air quality programs.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million, 2001 – \$2 million, 2000 – \$2 million, 1999 – \$2 million

\$3 million – NOAA Air Quality Forecasting Pilot Program

This air quality project will implement the first real-time numeric air quality forecasting system to warn people of the severity and the composition of hazardous air pollutants. Such forecasts will be invaluable to city planners, industrial polluters, and pollutant-sensitive individuals. This detailed and accurate air quality information will enable city planners to issue policies to encourage greater energy efficiency and a reduction in emissions during peak pollutant periods. Forecasts will also provide industrial polluters with the needed information about peak pollutant periods and predicted air flows to minimize the negative effects of their emissions.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million

\$1.75 million – New England Air Quality Study

Already in its second year, the program includes three comprehensive monitoring stations operating year round in Durham, Castle in the Clouds and on the Summit of Mount Washington. This series of stations will enable researchers to separate out pollutants from background levels of atmospheric components occurring naturally in the environment. By integrating weather patterns with atmospheric chemistry studies, researchers will be able to determine sources of pollution as diverse as the Asian mainland, northeastern U.S. vehicle traffic, and industrial sources from the Midwest and Canada. Some key areas of research include: the role of long range transport in shaping the regional and extra-regional air quality of New England, the role of naturally occurring emissions from regional forests in local and regional air quality, and analysis and quantification of the chemical reactions that are producing ozone and fine particles. New England will now become a testbed for national NOAA air quality efforts. Senator Gregg was on hand last summer to help kick-off the launch of the study off the coast of New Hampshire on the *Ron Brown*, a research vessel of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$1 million

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